

LABOR CLARION

The Official Journal of the San Francisco Labor Council

VOL. XXX

SAN FRANCISCO, OCTOBER 23, 1931

No. 38

CHICAGO'S BANK AND UNEMPLOYMENT MESS

Correspondent Exposes Big Game of Bluff and Bluster

By JOSEPH A. WISE of International Labor News Service

Bluff, bluster, bunk and ballyhoo is the order of the day in Chicago to cover up the crimes of the rich and powerful and to mislead the poor and lowly into the belief that the millennium is just around the corner.

Walter E. Wolf, a \$75-a-week Chicago bank clerk, has been sentenced to 100 years in prison for stealing more than three and a half million dollars from his bank over a period of fifteen years. How he got away with it without his superiors having guilty knowledge of his thefts has not been explained.

Boss bankers of La Salle street, who have robbed hundreds of thousands of Chicago citizens of hundreds of millions of dollars, are not even indicted.

Defrauded Depositors Organize

A committee representing more than a half million defrauded depositors visited State's Attorney John A. Swanson the other day to ascertain whether something could not be done to speed up prosecution of the bank looters. Swanson told the committee that he was broke, but that if the depositors would furnish an attorney who would serve without pay something might be done about it. Following departure of the committee from his office Swanson told newspaper reporters that the committee had related a lot of rumors but had given him no facts.

A state-wide depositors' committee has been functioning since June. The bondholders are now organizing with a view of seeing whether they cannot recover some of the hundreds of millions of dollars which they have tied up in defaulted bonds and to endeavor to send to prison some of the big bankers who, they charge, have deliberately defrauded them. I was an invited guest at the initial meeting of the bondholders. There were 600 present.

Bankers Accused of Fraud

It is charged that for several months prior to the big crash in June the bankers sold hundreds of millions of dollars of defaulted bonds to their depositors, representing them as safe and sound securities when they knew that no interest had been paid on some of the bonds for more than a year prior to their sale by the bankers. In order to lull the bilked purchasers into a feeling of security the bankers paid the interest on the defaulted bonds out of the funds on deposit, it is alleged. It is claimed that there are three billions of dollars' worth of defaulted securities floating around the country which were originally issued in Illinois.

If Wolf, the obscure bank clerk, is entitled to a hundred years in prison, then there are big bankers in Chicago who are entitled to much more than that. In China they would have their heads chopped off.

Capone Piker in Comparison

Al Capone is being tried for gypping the government out of a couple of hundred grand on his income tax as this is being written. There are so many reporters in the court room that there is not much room left for the court, jury, lawyers and defendant. It is a grand spectacle and furnishes the newspapers with thousands of columns of sensational reading matter. And yet when you get right down to brass tacks Al Capone is a piker in comparison with our banker racketeers.

The State's Attorney has no money to prosecute the banker racketeers. He has money, how-

ever, to maintain a racket bureau which specializes in persecuting trade union officers who show marked ability in fighting the battles of their unions.

Robert Isham Randolph, head of the "Secret Six," recently posed for a movie news reel picture. He told the public in that picture that the "Secret Six" was organized and is operated and financed by big business and that it obtains its information in reference to crime by purchase from denizens of the underworld. The "Secret Six" can easily obtain lots of evidence of the crimes of big business without a cent of cost, but they are not interested in that sort of crime.

Half Million in Chicago Idle

There are 500,000 unemployed in Chicago. Thousands of men are sleeping in the parks, under bridges, under viaducts, in vacant buildings, in freight cars, or wherever an obscure spot can be found, using newspapers for bed clothing. Hundreds of women are doing likewise. Thousands of

other women are being forced into prostitution in order to maintain life. Babies are crying for nourishment and dying for lack of it.

A drive is on for funds to provide offensive charity. Julius Rosenwald, chairman of the board of the notoriously non-union Sears, Roebuck & Co., offers to contribute \$250,000 if five other men will give a like sum. No offers after a lapse of one week. Rosenwald knew when he made the offer that there would not be five men found in Chicago to give such a huge sum. So Julius gets a million dollars' worth of advertising and keeps his money, too.

"Secret Six Thousand" Proposed

Big business has its "Secret Six" and thousands of other agencies to do its bidding. I propose that readers of the labor press organize a Secret Six Thousand whose aim it shall be to furnish information which will debunk the whole rotten mess during the coming winter.

EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERS' LOSSES

A loss in market value running to more than fifty million dollars has been suffered by employee stock owners in only three of the big corporations offering that device to employees, as a result of the stock market drop to date, according to figures compiled by International Labor News Service.

The three corporations are the American Telephone and Telegraph, United States Steel and Pennsylvania Railroad. There are many other corporations whose stock has been offered to employees as a "good thing" and as an influence expected to bind the worker to the corporation. But these three are outstanding, because of size and for other reasons.

The estimate of fifty million dollars is based upon the assumption that employees own an average of two shares each. They may own more than that amount on the average.

Losses in Telephone and Steel

American Telephone and Telegraph has 110,000 employee stock owners. On October 2, 1929, A. T. & T. stock closed at \$294 per share. On October 7, 1931, it closed at \$130, to use whole dollars instead of fractions of pennies. Fractions are omitted in all of these computations. The loss in value per share has been \$164, which represents the loss per share per employee, providing the employee should now wish to sell, or have to sell.

United States Steel has 57,109 employee stock owners. On October 2, 1929, Steel closed at \$143 per share. On October 7, 1931, it closed at \$68. The loss per share was \$75 and that is the loss each employee has suffered per share of stock held.

Lose Money and Jobs Also

Pennsylvania Railroad has 51,351 employee stock owners. Pennsylvania stock closed at \$101 on October 2, 1929, while on October 7, 1931, it closed at \$33, a loss of \$68 per share, which is the loss per employee per share.

Based on the conservative estimate of two shares owned by each employee stock owner, the total loss suffered by employee owners of these three corporations is \$51,616,586.

The market collapse that has taken place since

October 2, 1929, has not only crashed the values of the stocks, but many of the employees have been thrown out of employment, while many more, including all the employees of U. S. Steel, have had their wages cut.

Total Too Large to Compute

The picture painted to the employees when stock was sold to them was one of participation in gains. Beside the gains they made, or might have made, the losses they have suffered have been like mountains as to mole hills. They have lost stock values, they have lost in unemployment and they have lost in reduced wages—a total loss that cannot be computed on the basis of any known statistics.

GREEN IN SACRAMENTO

President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, on his way East from the Vancouver convention, did not stop in San Francisco. He tarried in Sacramento long enough to make a visit to the capitol, but was disappointed in his wish to see Governor Rolph, an old acquaintance, as the latter was out of the city. He spoke at a labor meeting in Reno, Nev., Tuesday night. To representatives of the press he said that organized labor will make serious objections to reduction in wages of railroad workers as a result of failure of railroads to get a 15 per cent increase in freight rates. He declared lower wages would only decrease the buying power of labor and would injure rather than benefit business.

Green predicted general use of the five-day week in industry within the next few years, explaining it was being rendered necessary by increased use of machinery. "The depression has taught us the lesson that there is not enough work to go around with a six-day week," he said.

Green said as a member of President Hoover's national unemployment commission he has recommended the five-day week and spreading of available employment to prevent dismissal of workers during slack periods.

ACTIONS OF CONVENTION REVIEWED

VANCOUVER, B. C., Oct. 22 (By I. L. N. S.) —The election of William Green to succeed himself, and the re-election of the entire executive council, as well as Secretary-Treasurer Morrison, brought the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor to a close on Thursday of last week.

The convention had recorded its enthusiastic approval of the executive council's recommended immediate and long-term programs for employment stimulation and stabilization and had placed American organized labor firmly on record for an industrial program outstanding among other national programs as the one important example of industrial action and self-reliance.

"Traditional Position" Sustained

Compulsory unemployment insurance was defeated by a *viva voce* vote after a strenuous debate reminiscent of struggles of older days on fundamental issues. The committee report sustained the traditional position in opposition to such insurance, but there were many who were prepared to record the Federation in support of such a measure. Among these were Daniel J. Tobin, former treasurer of the Federation and president of the Teamsters and Chauffeurs, and W. D. Mahon, former council member and Street Carmen's veteran president. It was evident that there is a growing resentment against failure to cope with unemployment and that unemployment insurance was regarded by some as a surer relief measure than may otherwise develop. It is certain that the showing made here will strengthen the hands of labor legislative representatives in demanding genuinely remedial action. The resolutions committee report, offered by Matthew Woll, was supported by John P. Frey, Victor A. Olander,

Charles P. Howard, Andrew Furuseth and others, who urged that the long-standing policy be continued.

No Sales Tax Wanted

The convention again put a firm foot down on sales tax proposals, denouncing these as attempts to further rob and exploit the wage earners. Labor will enter every campaign where sales taxes are proposed, prepared to use all energy toward their defeat.

The convention likewise took a fierce slap at labor conditions at Hoover Dam by indicating that it will not again endorse a public reclamation project until it is assured of decent labor conditions. The convention, for that reason, declined to endorse the Columbia River project, although it was pointed out this project would create much employment. The Federation wants decent employment, not brutal exploitation.

Federal Employees Rebuffed

By a vote of 140 to 50 the convention declined to approve the personnel reclassification bill expected to be introduced in the next Congress. Federal employees supported the proposal, but representatives of the skilled trades outside of federal employees and postal service workers declared the measure would place their memberships under classification and opposed the bill. The majority committee report was defeated and a minority report approved.

The minority report was signed by J. N. Davis, C. L. Rosemund and Thomas C. Donnelley. The reclassification bill was supported in debate by Thomas Flaherty, Luther C. Steward, Gertrude C. McNally, Luther E. Swartz and John T. Muga-

vin. John P. Frey opposed the majority report and supported the minority.

Refusal to Coerce Unions

What seemed to threaten acrimonious discussion went into the record peacefully when the convention voted down a resolution introduced from the Building Trades Department to make affiliation with departments compulsory. The Electrical Workers, Carpenters and Bricklayers are not affiliated. President Green, quoting from Samuel Gompers, declared that the foundation of the Federation must be "voluntarism, not coercion," and the convention upheld that viewpoint.

Finger printing of government employees was denounced.

A comprehensive campaign for registration of eligible voters throughout the country was approved in action on a resolution by I. M. Ornburn, who opposed a city-by-city effort with regular reports to headquarters on work done in a nationally co-ordinated effort.

Mandate to President Green

While grinding through the grist of 90 resolutions, which comprised the legislation originating in the membership of organized labor, placing the Federation on record in regard to vital matters, the most important work was ratification of the executive council's unemployment program, which calls for division of work, shorter work days and work weeks and for a national industrial conference and a federal labor board as steps toward a permanent structure carrying democratic practice much more deeply into the industrial structure of the nation. Adoption of this program is a mandate to President Green for his new term.

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HAIGHT STREET BRANCH.....Haight and Belvedere Streets
WEST PORTAL BRANCH.....West Portal Ave. and Ulloa St.

Dividends on Deposits as declared quarterly by the Board of Directors, are Computed Monthly and Compounded Quarterly, and may be withdrawn quarterly.

THE LABOR CLARION

is the official newspaper of the San Francisco Labor Council, and carries the announcements of that body. It also keeps its readers informed as to the activities of the American Federation of Labor and its affiliated unions. A union member who does not read the Labor Clarion is missing an opportunity for usefulness to his organization by not keeping informed as to the work of organized labor in its great uplift work. A special subscription rate is made for unions wishing to subscribe for their entire membership.

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LABOR'S HOPE IN LIBERAL JUDGES

The United States Supreme Court may again be asked to outlaw "yellow dog" labor contracts, which forbid employees joining unions on penalty of losing their jobs, says a Scripps-Howard dispatch from Washington. Possibility of a more liberal interpretation than has heretofore been given is seen because of the makeup of the present court.

The issue may be returned, it is believed, as a result of the decision of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court sustaining the validity of such contracts in a case involving employees of a hosiery mill.

Should the United States Supreme Court review the Pennsylvania decision, labor hopes that the new five-four alignment of the court will hold that such contracts are invalid.

When "yellow dog" contracts first reached the court in the Coppage vs. Kansas case Chief Justice Hughes (then an associate justice), with Justice Holmes, concurred in the dissenting opinion of the late Justice Day that these contracts were "essentially coercive."

Subsequently in the Hitchman case, Justices Holmes, Brandeis and Clarke dissented.

In upholding a West Virginia case the lower court had followed the reasoning of the Supreme Court in the Hitchman case but ignored the later American Steel Foundries case which qualified the earlier decision.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court, it was argued by Justice George W. Maxey in a dissenting opinion, also ignored the Foundries decision in its findings.

Should the United States Supreme Court agree with Justice Maxey and review the decision, labor is hopeful that Chief Justice Hughes and Associate Justices Holmes, Brandeis, Stone and Roberts will hold, as did the Pennsylvania jurist, that "the law should no more recognize these anti-union contracts than it recognizes 'white slave' contracts."

These jurists now constitute the so-called new liberal majority of the court.

Louis Francis Budenz, labor leader, one of the defendants in the Pennsylvania case, has wired Washington friends that an appeal is contemplated.

ROUSES BRITONS' IRE

Senator James J. Davis of Pennsylvania "started something" when he told the American Federation of Labor convention at Vancouver that unemployment insurance, or the "dole" as he termed it, "put a premium on indolence" and was largely responsible for the "sad plight of Great Britain and Germany," says a special to "Labor."

The fraternal delegates from the British Trades Union Congress—F. Wolstencraft, general secretary of the Woodworkers, and J. Beard, a leader of the general workers' branch of the Transport Workers' Union—were seated on the platform while the Senator was speaking. They resented the attack so keenly that they revised the speeches they had prepared and at Thursday's session devoted the greater part of the time allotted to them to making a heated reply to the Senator's charges.

"Most Malicious Lie"

"I am prepared to give the lie direct to any one who says that unemployment insurance has made the British workman prefer to play rather than seek employment," said Wolstencraft.

"It is one of the most malicious lies ever uttered," declared Beard.

Both men said they were "amazed" by the extent to which propaganda against unemployment insurance had taken root in this country.

"The criticisms, in the main, are based on absolute ignorance as to the needs of our people and

of the administration of the unemployment insurance system," Wolstencraft asserted.

He pointed out that neither the British Labor party nor the British labor movement was responsible for the law.

"It was passed by a Liberal government twenty years ago," he said, "and it was broadened greatly by the Conservatives during the war."

Guarded by Rigid Regulations

"The law compels workers and employers alike to contribute, and at present every employed worker is contributing 32 cents a week. In return the government promised to pay certain amounts every week to the unemployed. This has been done under the most rigid regulations, which make fraud almost impossible."

He said the insurance act is divided into two parts. The first has to do with unemployment insurance and the second provides national health and sickness benefits.

"Critics of the scheme are always talking about the first part," he declared, "because the government had been compelled to advance large sums to take care of the unemployed. They never mention the second part because it has been a marked financial success—in fact, it has millions in reserve.

"Those who oppose unemployment insurance in Britain are those people who want to increase the working hours and reduce the wages of the workers.

Maligned by Enemies of Labor

"It is obvious they are not friends of the labor movement.

"We do not say the system should operate in America. We say each country should decide such questions for itself. All we ask is that we be permitted to conduct our own business in our own way."

Beard declared that if an advertisement were placed in an English paper calling for ten men to build a golf course 10,000 would respond.

"Does that indicate that in Britain the worker is down and out—demoralized by unemployment pay? It is a lie, my brothers—a bitter, malicious lie."

He maintained that Britain had "the finest social services in the world."

GASOLINE TAX FOR SEPTEMBER

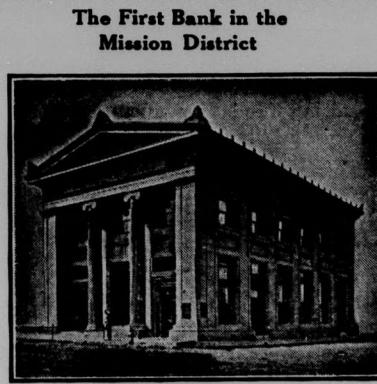
California's gasoline tax for September reflected the ending of the tourist season with receipts of but \$3,480,487, according to a statement made by H. G. Cattell, member of the State Board of Equalization. This is somewhat less than the August tax, which totaled \$3,550,847.

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Published Weekly by the S. F. Labor Council
Telephone MArket 0056
Office, S. F. Labor Temple, 2940 Sixteenth Street
CHAS. A. DERRY
Editor and Manager



SUBSCRIPTION RATES

	Year
Single subscriptions.....	\$1.50
To unions, each subscription.....	1.00
(When subscribing for entire membership)	
Single copies.....	.05

Changes of address or additions to union mail lists must come through the secretary of each organization. Members are notified that this is obligatory.

Entered as second-class matter August 10, 1918, at the postoffice at San Francisco, California, under the act of March 3, 1879.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1931

HEARST AND THE SIX-HOUR DAY

Under date of October 17 William Randolph Hearst writes from his princely estate at San Simeon, Calif., to the editor of his San Francisco "Examiner" as follows:

"I think we should declare vigorously for the six-hour day. I have no doubt that if we make a 'survey' to secure a general expression of opinion the majority of employers queried will be against the six-hour day.

"But we are supposed to lead opinion, not to follow it. If we had polled the country on the election of senators by the people in the beginning the vast majority would have been against it; and so with woman suffrage and all other progressive measures.

"I believe in the six-hour day, and believe it soon should be and soon can be an accomplished fact. There is nothing revolutionary in it. Hours have decreased from fourteen hours a day at the beginning of the nineteenth century to eight hours a day at the beginning of the twentieth century. It is time for another reduction in hours.

"Labor-saving machinery makes a reduction of hours possible, and in fact necessary. Otherwise vast numbers of working people will be thrown out of employment.

"It has been the habit of the employing classes to take the full benefit of labor-saving machinery and capitalize it, depriving the working people of their due share of this benefit.

"The advantage of labor-saving machinery should be distributed to the employers in greater profits, to be sure, and to the consumers in cheaper prices; but above all to the working people in shorter hours, better wages and better living conditions. We should not have to have strikes of the working people for them to get what is justly theirs. We are in an uncivilized state if we have to have war between labor and capital in order to secure a just distribution of the benefits of human progress.

"Employers should realize that they have no moral right to monopolize these benefits and should have no legal right to do so. They must, in common justice, common morality, and common advantage distribute these benefits. Employers must realize that the distribution of these benefits means advantage for the capitalistic classes as well as for the consuming and working classes; because without increased buying power on the part of the masses there can be no sufficient market for increased production.

"The next step in order in the progress of industry is the six-hour day; and the six-hour day is

already being adopted by the more progressive employers.

"There must be co-operation on the part of the working people, of course, to make the adoption of the six-hour day possible in this period of depression. Unnecessary restrictions on production must be removed. Hampering, harassing union rules must be modified. There should be sympathy and harmony between employers and employees for common good.

"But capital might just as well understand here and now that an intelligent public opinion will no longer permit the employing class to monopolize all the benefits of invention, but will insist upon those benefits being shared with its employees and with the consuming public."

With the exception of a portion of one paragraph of the above there is not a single sentence that might not have been written by the most ardent trade unionist. But that single exception is the answer to the natural query, "Where is the catch?"

Here is the publisher of a string of some twenty-five or more great daily newspapers and a dozen or more thriving magazines of nation-wide circulation, employing thousands of skilled workmen, together with hundreds of professional writers and editors, and more hundreds of office employees, executives, etc., and he tells his subordinate that "I think we should declare vigorously" for the shorter work day which has been generally determined is perhaps the most effective solution of the present unemployment situation—that and the five-day week.

Well, the uninitiated naturally would be disposed to declare on reading Mr. Hearst's instructions to his editor, the most "vigorous" advocacy of the six-hour day would be to put it into effect in the Hearst enterprises—why doesn't he do it?

And here is the fly in the ointment. "There must be co-operation on the part of the working people . . . Unnecessary restrictions on production must be removed. Hampering, harassing union rules must be modified. There should be sympathy and harmony between employers and employees for the common good."

The printing trades unions, at least, will reply to this, and with good reason, that as far as they are concerned all these conditions have been met. A spirit of co-operation on the part of the unions has been demonstrated often enough as to require no further proof. It is vigorously denied that there are restrictions on production, and "hampering, harassing union rules" exist only in the minds of those to whom any restrictions on an employer are ominous. Until such time as unions are willing to abdicate their right to make agreements with employers making rules for their mutual guidance there will be talk of "hampering and harassing."

If Mr. Hearst is desirous of earning a reputation for sincerity here is a chance for him to demonstrate it. By all means let us have the six-hour day in the newspaper business, and thus aid in the fight against unemployment.

The legislative committee on unemployment is reported to be flirting with the sales tax idea as a means of raising funds for unemployment relief. Under the guise of "luxury taxes" the scheme bids fair to revive the "nuisance taxes" of the war period. A sales tax at this time will raise a storm that will be difficult to abate. Put the new taxes on those who can afford to pay them.

The Street Car Men's Union of St. Louis "stands aghast" at the decision of an arbitration board which awarded a reduction in wages of 10 per cent, according to the "Union News" of that city. "The reduction will take about \$430,000 out of pay envelopes from October 1 to next May."

CALIFORNIA'S COTTON FIELDS

A news dispatch from Visalia printed in several of the state newspapers says that conditions of cotton pickers in Tulare County were described as "appalling" by Reed Cravey, father of several children, who is engaged in picking the crop in the Dinuba district. He appeared at the district attorney's office seeking to get working permits for his two oldest children.

"I want my children to go to school, but I also want them to have enough to eat," declared the cotton picker. "We are so poor that all they have been able to take to school for lunch has been a cold biscuit apiece.

"The only clothes they have are on their backs, and the only shoes I have to work in are an old pair of bedroom slippers. If I were the only one, I would be ashamed to tell this, but I'm not. There are hundreds as near starvation as we are."

Cravey told newspapermen that he could make about 90 cents a day picking cotton, and with the aid of his two children the family income would be doubled.

At the same time that the above news item was appearing a representative of the United States Department of Labor Employment Service in Los Angeles made the following announcement:

"Cotton picking in both California and Arizona is now at the peak and hundreds of cotton pickers of all nationalities are needed. Although the picking price is low, this work will assist needy people in providing for themselves for about three more months. Full information can be obtained at the Department of Labor Employment Service."

Granting that the Visalia story reflects actual conditions, one is prompted to inquire whether an agricultural activity which depends upon such degrading conditions of labor is worth fostering. And while the federal employment service is probably in duty bound to endeavor to secure recruits for the cotton fields as well as other industrial projects, it would appear that its efforts are misplaced. It should be made more difficult to secure labor for such enterprises rather than to facilitate the effort.

HOOVER'S SALES TAX

The Hoover administration, acting through Senator Reed and Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, Pennsylvania's Defenders of the Faith in Plutocracy, has the gall to send up, in the midst of the hard times which came in with Hoover, a trial balloon on the subject of a sales tax on the poor (even the unemployed) confessedly designed to save the undertaxed super-rich (to whom doles to the amount of \$160,000,000 have recently been voted in the form of a tax refund from the public treasury at Hoover's suggestion) from further taxation. Plutocracy's St. David says he can raise \$2,000,000,000 by means of such a rack-rent tax. Our tip to the President is that it would probably cost at least \$10,000,000,000 to collect the \$2,000,000,000. The expenses of the grandest funeral staged in the United States since the civil war might go far beyond our estimate. This is a poor time for plutocratic furies to begin slinging flame. —"Open Forum."

GOVERNOR PINCHOT'S VIEWS

Those who hold that only through private funds should unemployment relief be raised are "assuming a tremendous responsibility," Governor Pinchot of Pennsylvania declared at a convention of state poor directors at Altoona.

The governor quoted President Hoover to the effect that in this country there are 6,000,000 undernourished children and at least 10,000,000 who are deficient, and he added: "This is the result of saying too often that 'we have the situation well in hand.'" The governor took a shot at employers who throw their workers into the streets. "It is as much a crime to do that as to embezzle a million dollars from stockholders," he said.

COMMENT ON THE NEWS

General Smedley D. Butler, the bellicose ex-marine, does not believe there is a "red" menace in this country, but our system is all wrong and should be changed after an exhaustive study. The wrong, he says, is that \$51,000,000,000 of our wealth is in the hands of 16,000 persons, and only \$4,000,000,000 in the hands of all the others.

* * *

The plan of industrial stabilization proposed by President Swope of the General Electric Company is "about as complete a repudiation of capitalism as any Socialist would want," Norman Thomas, Socialist leader, declared in a radio address in New York last week. Thomas viewed the scheme as a "drift to an American version of Fascism."

* * *

Only a little more than half of the enfranchised population of the United States think enough of the vote to record it, according to the Census Bureau. It has compiled figures placing the voting strength of the country on April 1, 1930, at 66,800,000. At the 1928 election only 36,852,057 voted, or 53 per cent.

* * *

There is no room for doubt as to the attitude of organized labor on the question of the suggested "sales tax," a bill for which is pending before Congress and has received the support of California members. Without a dissenting vote the convention of the American Federation of Labor at Vancouver condemned the sales tax and urged more drastic inheritance taxes. "Taxation should be aimed at wealth and not at the consuming power of the nation's wage earners," the convention declared.

* * *

Senator Hiram Johnson has issued a statement to the press in which he shows great perturbation at the trend of governmental activities. He said: "We've a new kind of government. The old, cumbersome mode of the constitution has been superseded by a dictatorship and an oligarchy. When congressional action is needed now, Congress is not called in session, but 'leaders' of the Republican and Democratic parties and the Progressive right wing are summoned in secret to the White House to approve a long prearranged policy, and thus the policy is adopted."

* * *

In an interview in Boston the Secretary of Labor, William N. Doak, said: "I have given up forecasting when prosperity will be with us again, but I am confident from reports constantly reaching me at Washington from all corners of the country that hard times are now at their lowest ebb."

* * *

While the Interstate Commerce Commission has denied the demand of the railroads for a 15 per cent increase in freight rates, it has conditionally approved a schedule of surcharges on shipments of coal, steel, forest products, ores and oils. A 1 per cent increase on shipments of citrus fruits would add "but \$467,000 additional to the revenues of the railroads," and is regarded lightly by the growers. It is to be hoped that the increase is sufficient to forestall the desire of the railroads to cut wages. Organized labor will resist this to the last ditch.

* * *

Edward A. Filene of Boston, the noted "merchant prince," author and student of industrial problems, assumes the role of "Gloomy Gus" in an interview accorded to newspaper men on his arrival from Europe. Filene's gloom was the result of his belief that a "succession of revolutionary movements in Europe is imminent." The only way they can be headed off, he declared, was for business men, bankers and industrialists to "get a vision" and change "mass movements

into industrial revolutions." This involved primarily an increase of wages to enlarge consuming power, Filene said. "Our people have been frightened by recent wage reductions," he added. "Laying people off and cutting wages not only diminishes the buying power of those directly affected, but it creates fear among others and they save instead of spending. If the 6,000,000 now out of work were buying what they need the depression would be over next year."

* * *

The situation in which the 14,000 school teachers of Chicago find themselves is a disgrace to that city whose motto used to be "I will." They have not received a cent in cash since last April. Some of them accepted scrip, and found it practically worthless, as merchants and bankers would not take it. Most of the teachers are in actual distress; but no plan for securing the needed money has been agreed upon to present to the special session of the Illinois legislature.

BALEFUL INFLUENCE OF ONE MAN

One banker, dominating a corporation board of directors, enforced a wage reduction affecting a million people. This is the charge made by United States Senator James Couzens of Michigan. Senator Couzens, in his statement, raked business leaders and bankers fore and aft. He pointed out that they pick the start of winter to enforce wage cuts. He said wage earners are entitled to something more than a living.

Finally he capped his statement with the charge that one banker heading a corporation executive committee picked the pockets of a million men and women by a wage reduction. "These people are at the absolute mercy of this one banker," the Michigan senator said.

One banker trims a million people!

IMMIGRATION FIGURES

Only 4090 immigrants were admitted to the United States in August, more than 10,000 fewer than in August of last year, Harry E. Hull, Commissioner General of Immigration of the Department of Labor, reports. The decline was 72.4 per cent. More than half the immigrants were from Europe, with Italy supplying 679. August deportations totaled 1584, as against 1208 in August, 1930.

THE HOISIERY TRADE

The American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers and the Full Fashioned Hosiery Manufacturers of America, Inc., an association of some sixty leading manufacturers in various states, have signed a new national agreement which provides for arbitration of all disputes. The agreement also calls for wage reductions but provides that manufacturers are to operate without profit, the aim being to stabilize the trade. As soon as conditions warrant, wages will be raised.

The contract calls for a drastic wage reduction on the part of the workers ranging from 45 to 30 per cent on the piece rates applying to the various operations in the manufacture of full fashioned hosiery. On the other hand, the manufacturers agree to operate without profit and have already drastically reduced the selling price of their products in an effort to secure more employment for unionized workers who during the past year have not worked as steadily as non-union workers, owing, it is stated, to the lower labor costs in non-union establishments. The avowed purpose of the agreement is to force non-union workers and the manufacturers who employ non-union labor to a realization of the necessity for co-operating in a program designed to bring about an effective degree of stabilization in the industry.

Buy union-made goods. Employ union men.

THE CHERRY TREE

Go and see—if you have the chance—the moving picture called "Five Star Final." You will appreciate your labor paper a whole lot more after seeing this excellent portrayal of the workings of certain other papers.

"Five Star Final" was written by a working newspaper man who has reported strikes for a labor paper, who has been editor of the magazine section of a big Sunday newspaper and who has been managing editor of a tabloid. He seems to know his tabloids and the picture is about life on a tab.

The tabloids carry to the logical conclusion the principles upon which a great many newspaper circulations are based.

Watch for the line, spoken by the disgusted managing editor: "If I sat on a cigar box I'd be above the mentality of our circulation."

Great tabloid circulations are secured, this lesson teaches us, by playing hard to the cheap, the tawdry, the over-sexed, the filth and the nasty personal dirt of a more or less disordered world.

* * *

The characters in this newspaper play talk slightly and with utter contempt of serious news—the news about things that make the world or mar it for human beings, that affect the welfare of millions and make or mar the peace of nations.

No, to win circulation you mustn't print news that requires thought. Readers must never be given a headache. Give them over-played village gossip of the scandals of the neighbors, prying into things that are nobody's business.

There are great newspaper circulations not built on slush and slop, but not very many that stand entirely independent of the gutter stripe. Mostly the newspapers that seek to deal adequately and with dignity in the real news of the day have no spectacular success.

* * *

But the hammering goes on and hammering has its ultimate effect.

Those who remember "Ballyhoo" and those fortunate enough to see "The Front Page" will find in "Five Star Final" a clinching reason to regard with new admiration and loyalty the labor press, as it battles along striving to delve to the bottom of the issues that really make or mar human welfare and happiness.

To the tabloid a meeting of bankers isn't of much importance, but the meeting of bankers may mean life itself to millions. A trade agreement that adds five cents an hour to a wage scale is a historic document, but not for the tabs.

A strike is a battle for health and better things, but it's no news to the tabs until and unless someone is hurt.

The labor paper, often criticized for its attention to serious things, must be serious. Not heavy and dull, but serious in the sense that it must deal with matters that actually are important.

To do this it need not lose its sense of humor and it need not lack vivacity and warmth.

* * *

In this civilization, the wheels of which are ever more complex, we have to think or be lost.

President Hoover calls thirty-two men to the White House and lays forth a plan to revive industry by reviving the credit structure. That is of enormous importance. It may mean thousands and thousands of jobs—or it may be shadow boxing. Few things are more important to know about.

About too much of the big news of the day the real facts are concealed. Who knows precisely what was back of steel's wage cut?

The job—the day's work—today follows from causes that lie far back and are rooted in the bowels of a complicated economic and financial system. See "Five Star Final."

GENERAL LABOR NEWS

About 5500 more workers are reported now employed by metal manufacturing firms in the Philadelphia area than in July, according to reports from more than 100 firms.

Unemployment in Detroit this winter will be less than last year, according to John L. Lovett, general manager of the Michigan Manufacturers' Association.

Dispatches from Manila say that the general strike called recently by cigar workers in the Philippine capital proved a failure in all except three factories and the men returned to work.

Salary cuts affecting every branch of the provincial service have been announced by the British Columbia government and will lop about a quarter of a million dollars a year off its expenditures.

Improvement in the unemployment situation in Great Britain is reported from London, a decrease of more than 33,000 in the weekly total of unemployed being hailed as an indication of returning prosperity.

More than 100,000 British government employees, with their children, wives and sympathizers, held an impressive demonstration in London on October 11 in protest against cutting of their wages by the national government.

New York Printing Pressmen's Union No. 51 of New York City, which for two years has assessed its 4000 members \$8 a month to create an unemployment relief fund, and in that time has distributed more than \$400,000, has voted unanimously to continue the assessment for another six months.

Awards of contracts for public works during the week ended October 3 increased \$8,000,000 over the figure for the previous week and brought the total involved in such contracts since December, 1930, to more than \$2,500,000,000, the President's Organization on Unemployment Relief announced October 5.

Predictions that the "company" union maintained by the Pullman company would be declared "fraudulent, fictitious and illegal" by the courts were made at a two-day conference in Chicago of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. Plans for fighting the case as far as it is necessary to go were completed at the conference.

With the exception of one colliery where repairs are being made and at several which have been closed permanently, all anthracite mines of the Glen Alden Coal Company in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties, Pennsylvania, resumed operations October 12 after having been idle nearly two weeks because of an unauthorized strike of 29,000 men.

Approximately 2,385,000 men and women normally depend for livelihood on the iron and steel industry, in which wage scale reductions have been initiated by the three leading producers. This is the number of salaried workers and wage earners counted by the United States Census Bureau in its door-to-door enumeration made on April 30, 1930, in the earlier stages of the industrial depression.

Following a recent decision of the Sangamon County Circuit Court at Springfield, Ill., that the new prevailing rate of wages law for state work is unconstitutional, Attorney General Oscar E. Carlstrom notified contractors that all payments for work performed will be stopped pending appeal of the decision. Public work amounting to approximately \$4,700,000 is affected by the Attorney General's notice.

At the sixty-third annual meeting of the British Trade Union Congress, held recently, 587 delegates represented 3,719,401 members, while at the congress of 1930, 606 delegates had represented

3,744,320 members. The slight decline is chiefly due to the difficult position of various industries, notably textiles. Apart from these industries, the special organization campaign of the general council last year brought in no fewer than 100,000 new members.

The Wood and Ayer mills of the American Woolen Mills Company, at Lawrence, Mass., were closed this week when the workers walked out in protest against a 10 per cent wage cut. The strike was of spontaneous origin. As the workers returned to their places after the lunch period Monday a group went through the Wood mill advocating resistance to the reduction. A majority of the strikers are affiliated with American Federation of Labor unions.

Sixty-five thousand more workers were employed on road work in August than in July in 36 states, W. V. Markham, executive secretary of the American Association of State Highway Officials, has just reported to the President's Organization on Unemployed Relief. Contracts let in August totaled 3033 miles at a cost of \$44,898,173. In all states there were 270,187 men employed on highway projects.

TO REVIEW IMPORTANT CASE

A victory that may lead to one of the most important labor decisions yet rendered by the United States Supreme Court was scored last week when that tribunal granted a writ of certiorari to Painters' District Council No. 14, Chicago, in the case brought against it by the government for alleged action in restraint of trade, says a Washington dispatch.

The case came up from the Northern Division of Illinois District Court, where Judge Walter C. Lindley had decided against the union. The case involved the finishing of ready-made kitchen cabinets. The union contended that these cabinets, which were interstate commerce articles, should be set in place with only a protecting coat of paint and should be finished on the job. The factory desired to ship them completely finished and the government charged that the union's refusal to do other work in buildings wherein cabinets were installed completely finished constituted undue restraint of trade.

Granting of the writ of certiorari means that the Supreme Court will hear the case on its merits, giving the union a chance to establish the merit of its position before this tribunal. Had the writ been denied the lower court would have been sustained and the case would have been closed. The union now has its day in the Supreme Court.

A CATHOLIC VIEWPOINT

An excellent "sermon" on the necessity of trade unionism is preached in the following editorial from "The Evangelist," official organ of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, N. Y.:

"The orgy of wage-cutting indulged in by the major American corporations was observed with less surprise than keen regret by those interested in the American worker. While it was general knowledge that wages were being slashed by legions of less representative industries throughout the country, it was hoped that the major units of the steel and automobile industries would continue to make some semblance of fairness to labor in view of the pledges made at the President's conference, November, 1929, that everything would be done to preserve the prevailing wage scale during the period of depression.

"The sufferings of the present depression period will have been worth the enduring if they only bring home to the American workingman, whatever his trade or occupation may be, that if labor is to become articulate against injustice and unfairness, it must be organized."

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GRAVE STRUGGLE FEARED

There is little tendency by any of the observers in Washington to forecast rate increases for the railroads, except perhaps in isolated cases, says an I. L. N. S. dispatch. No blanket raise is expected. The open declaration that wage cuts are to be attempted if rates are not raised by the Interstate Commerce Commission brings a grave struggle to the horizon.

The railroad unions have at all times maintained that they will stand for maintenance of their standards. D. B. Robertson, speaking for the twenty-one brotherhoods and unions in comment on the four-system consolidation plan, said two planks are paramount, of which the first is "unquestionable preservation of livelihood rights and interests of railroad employees in the industry and in their homes." The second calls for a "definite labor policy" and closer co-operation. If these planks mean anything they mean a stand for gains now possessed by the railroad workers and it may be assumed they will stand for them whether the threat be from consolidation or wage-cut efforts.

The example of steel in taking unto itself whatever money gains may be made out of wage cuts and the further fact that rail rates have the bolstering machinery of the I. C. C. behind them make it clear that if the railroads should be able to gouge the rail workers, however unlikely that is, the workers and the public would again be the goat.

COMMUNITY CHEST FACES TEST

George J. Presley, executive vice-president of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, has come to the support of the Chest in a statement in which he characterized the campaign which opens October 26 as "the greatest test which San Francisco and the Community Chest have met in recent years."

"The very magnitude of the job challenges the loyalty and patriotism of every man and woman in our community," Presley said, "for unless they all help, and to the limit of their ability, it cannot be done."

During the last fifteen years, Presley pointed out, there has hardly been a section of the globe San Francisco has not helped with money, food and clothing, in special areas of distress. "Our people have never failed to respond generously to anything that was right," he said, "and if anything ever was right, the need of the Chest for \$2,500,000 to take care of our own through 1932 is right. Thousands of men who will be unable to find work during the coming winter are the heads of families. They and their wives and children must be cared for. In addition to this, the Chest must provide for the orphanages and hospitals and the hundred other necessary agencies that receive this help each year in normal times, all of whose burdens have been increased because of the industrial depression. This is the biggest and most urgent job that any relief organization has ever faced, and to do it we must all play our part."

The fall campaign starts on October 26 and continues through November 18.

OPPOSE CONSCRIPTION OF LABOR

Labor is unalterably opposed to conscription of the civilian population in time of war, John B. Colpoys, editor of "The Trades Unionist," told students of the Army War College, Washington. Mr. Colpoys spoke as the representative of the American Federation of Labor, having been chosen by President William Green of the Federation to present a paper on "Labor in War: Measures to Insure Its Most Effective Employment."

BRICKLAYERS AID UNEMPLOYED

A half million dollars has just been contributed to the unemployed members of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers' International Union throughout the United States and Canada, according to an announcement issued by the executive board of the organization.

This help to unemployed members is extended through the cancellation of the per capita tax on members for November, December and January.

The tax which will not be collected for the three months will approximate a half million dollars, the officials said. At the same time all members exempted from the tax will continue eligible to participate in benefits aggregating a million and a half dollars.

RESISTANCE TO WAGE REDUCTIONS

The five-day week and shorter work day to relieve unemployment, militant resistance to wage reductions, and a demand for increased real wages are the outstanding features of the annual report of James O'Connell and John P. Frey, president and secretary-treasurer of the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor. In regard to wage reductions, the report said: "There are no moral, social or economic justifications for reduction in wages. Every attempt to reduce wages should be met by active organized opposition. The public should be made aware that efforts to reduce wages are the results of the employers' ignorance or indifference to economic facts or their incompetence in management, or greed, or a combination of the three."

NOTED PLAY TO CLOSE TOMORROW

"Precedent," I. J. Golden's thrilling play, based on the Mooney-Billings case, with a record run of a season in New York to back it as fine drama, is now in its last week at the Curran Theater. Robert Warwick, who has been starred throughout America, heads a large and distinguished cast of players which includes John Ince, playing the part of a noted newspaper editor, Mary Alden, Howard Nugent, Carlton Inng, Haleene Hill, Harold Nelson, Arthur Foster, Wilbur Higby and many others. "Precedent" is a play that is said to have done more for the Mooney cause than any one effort. The author with deftness and precision has woven a tale of unusual interest that grips the audience and holds it spell-bound until the final curtain. The last performance will be given on Saturday night, October 24.

NORWEGIAN STRIKE ENDS

Reporting the ending of the great strike of Norwegian workers, the International Federation of Trade Unions says that the strikers won at least a partial victory. The Federation's report says:

"The big struggle in Norway, which began on March 15 with the lockout of 12,000 paper workers, and was augmented by the subsequent lockout of no less than 85,000 workers, is now at an end, the workers having accepted the award of the state conciliator which they rejected last August. After the conciliator's proposals had been rejected negotiations were resumed—in part between the two national organizations and in part with the union executives of the individual trades—at which agreement was reached as to the interpretation to be put upon certain ambiguous passages. Then a referendum was held, which yielded a majority of the trade union members for the acceptance of the award.

"The fight may be said to have ended in victory for the workers, since the wage cut which is to come into effect will only be an average of 6 per cent, while the employers had demanded a cut of 15 to 25 per cent."

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RUN O' THE HOOK

(This department is conducted by the president of San Francisco Typographical Union No. 21)

Thomas F. O'Rourke, well-known local printer, passed away on October 16 in St. Francis Hospital. He had been ill only a few days, the cause of death being pneumonia. Deceased was a native of Ireland, 42 years of age, and had been a resident of San Francisco for many years. Surviving him, besides his mother and father, are three sisters and six brothers, among whom are J. J. O'Rourke, employed on the "Wall Street Journal," and Patsy, his twin brother, a member of the Pressmen's Union. Funeral services were held on Monday, October 19, from the Church of St. John the Evangelist, at which many friends were in attendance. Co-workers from the "Examiner," in which chapel Mr. O'Rourke was employed, acted as pall-bearers. Interment was in Holy Cross cemetery.

Frank Ernest, for many years connected with the job branch of San Francisco and well known on both sides of the bay, passed away on October 16 at his home in Oakland, the contributing cause being chronic myocarditis. Mr. Ernest was a native of Pennsylvania, and was 66 years of age. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Dora Ernest, and a son, Brent. Funeral services were conducted by the East Bay Masonic Board of Relief for Ekalaka Lodge of Montana, of which deceased was a member. Interment was in Evergreen cemetery.

Next Wednesday, October 28, a special election will be held to fill a vacancy in the first vice-presidency of the I. T. U., caused by the death of Theodore Perry. There are two candidates on the ballot—our own Claude M. Baker, who was unanimously endorsed by No. 21, and Leon H. Rouse, former president of New York Union No. 6. A constitutional amendment will also be voted on providing for one additional delegate to I. T. U. conventions for each two thousand members over one thousand. All members are urged to vote, and for the benefit of those unattached and for members in the smaller chapels polls will be open in the Secretary's Chapel from 12 noon until 7 p. m.

William R. Trotter, head of the Bureau of Statistics of the I. T. U. and delegate to the American Federation of Labor, was a visitor in San Francisco this week following the convention in Vancouver. Mr. Trotter was entertained by George Knell during his stay in San Francisco.

William F. Englefried, a member of Multnomah Typographical Union No. 58, Portland, Oregon, visited in San Francisco for a few days during the past week.

James Byrne, popular member of Sacramento Union No. 46, attended our meeting last Sunday while visiting in the Bay District.

Fred Ewald, veteran in the labor movement in San Francisco, and a stereotyper employed on the "Chronicle," had the misfortune the other day to break several bones in one of his hands.

The San Francisco Club of Printing House Craftsmen will hold an open house, as guests of the American Type Founders' Company, at 500 Howard street, this (Friday) evening. The program will include a dinner and speeches by representatives of the printing crafts. Among the speakers will be I. W. Judkins, former pressroom representative; Henry Lewis Bullen, curator of the typographic library of the American Type Founders' Company at Jersey City, N. J., and John S. Pinney, who has been associated with "American" since its organization.

Call-Bulletins—By "Hoot"

Just three months ago we extended our best wishes to C. W. ("Bill") Stockfleth, the genial stereotyper who was with us in the composing room, on his wedding. Today we extend our sym-

pathy to his widow. Bill, who was beloved by all who knew him, died Monday morning from a heart attack. He was in the best of health when he retired, but died while asleep. The condolences of the chapel are extended to his family. The funeral was held Wednesday, a large number of friends being present.

We also heard with sorrow of the passing of Tommy O'Rourke of the "Examiner" chapel. Tommy was well known to most of us.

We asked one of the mailers to give us some news of his department for this column. So far he has not come forward with any. Either the chaps in that department are "scandal proof" or our correspondent hates to give us the "low-down."

There are some conscientious lads in our department. The other day one of them took a "take" of markets just at lunch time. He set one line and then put it back on the hook. The next operator got it, but on reading the line over discovered an error in it.

The other day an item came over the wire telling of oil being discovered in a drinking fountain. Since then there has been a heavy run on the fountain in the composing room.

Henry Bender, who "connected" with the pool, says that his share made the first payment on a pretty fur coat.

One of the boys had an ad to set, giving a list of the grocers in town. That night when he got home his wife had a bunch of company to supper. She sent hubby out to get something at the grocer's, and "please hurry." He was gone for about 'steen hours and when he came back minus the article he had the list of grocers in his hand. Half of them were checked off and he informed the missus that he had not been successful so far, but that he would visit the remainder of the stores on the list the following day.

Roscoe Cole, one of our expert makeups, put in some time last Sunday teaching his pup to do tricks. Roscoe got too strenuous, so the pup bit him in the hand. Now Roscoe has to lay off to attend the funeral, as the dog died.

"Chronicle" Chapel Notes—By C. C.

Alex Gross returned from the Boston convention last week. And, by the way, printers in various shops throughout the city owe the local delegation a vote of thanks, for those gentlemen mailed the proceedings of the convention daily.

Congratulations are in order, gents! Extend them to Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Turner, for in the Turner domicile is a new baby girl, and if you don't think Thomas is treading on thin air you don't know your keyboard or case. Congratulations!

One day last week: "How's the golf game, Mr. Nelson?" "Fine and dandy; cracked a hundred today," sez Mr. Nelson.

Monday of this week: "How's the game, Art?" "Terrible! I shot a 159 plus today," replied Mr. Nelson. Thus is the tragic life of a golf addict.

When it comes to being obliging, hand the cork bottom skillet to Mr. C. C. Dye. "Please will you set my name?" asked a young lady visitor to the room, and Mr. Dye does so, being careful to cool the slug before handing it to the Y. L. V.

Contrast this to the above. Lester Reynard was also asked to set a name for a fair young damsel. What does he do? He sets the name on a 24-point slug and hands the hot slug to her. Not so considerate as Dye.

"Shopping News" Chapel Notes—By G. E. M., Jr.

We were shocked to learn last week of the passing of our good friend Thomas O'Rourke. "Tommy," as we all called him, was a member of the old "Bulletin" chapel a few years ago and resigned his situation there to go over to the "Examiner." Tom was a good unionist and we shall miss him. Working in the "Shopping News" chapel are many friends and acquaintances of the

O'Rourke family. They all join with us in expressing our sympathy in the loss of their son and brother Tom.

William Rossetti, some years ago foreman of the "Call" and lately connected with the "Racing Form" publication, will shortly return to the coast. We believe "Rosie" will linger longer than usual this time. We'll be glad to welcome him back to the scene of his early triumphs.

The union label sometimes proves valuable in a different manner than its appearance on printed matter. For instance, quite recently officials of collegiate football were amazed to find nearly one-third of a large stadium occupied by holders of counterfeit tickets. The printer of the tickets was foolish enough to try and bamboozle the public, but the football officials immediately detected the fraud by the absence of the union label on the counterfeit tickets. Yes, they caught the printer—and he confessed.

MAILER NOTES

By LEROY C. SMITH

The regular monthly meeting of the union was held on Sunday, October 18. There was a large attendance of members, who remained until adjournment. President Christie, delegate to the I. T. U. convention at Boston, gave a very interesting report, which was well received. A resolution calling for an increase in dues had its first reading and will come up for action at the regular November meeting of the union. An application for membership was rejected. The outside chairman presented an interesting and encouraging report pertaining to conditions in the job field.

Joseph Stocker of the "News" chapel, while searching for bear and other big game in the Placer County foothills last week, brought down with a single shot what is said to be one of the largest deer killed this season.

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Next Wednesday October 28th

S. F. Progressive Club: C. K. Couse, Pres.; H. J. Benz, Secy.

TYPOS IN CONFERENCE

The board of directors of the California Conference of Typographical Unions, in regular quarterly session, Sunday, October 11, in San Francisco, made a substantial donation to Oakland Typographical Union No. 36 to assist in its fight to settle the six-months-old lockout in the plant of the Alameda "Times-Star," a newspaper published by the McDowell interests and for twenty-five years published under union conditions, but which last spring suddenly served notice of a wage cut of \$1.50 a day below the existing scale. Applications for membership from Eureka Typographical Union No. 207 and Monterey Peninsula Typographical Union No. 759 were accepted and these unions declared admitted to membership, subject to approval of the Conference at its meeting in January, 1932.

George W. McDill, president of the Conference, and also director in charge of the men locked out for Oakland Typographical Union, informed the directors that Oakland union is putting up a valiant fight to settle the trouble in the "Times-Star" plant and that thus far good headway has been made, but the situation seemed to be settling into a long-drawn-out fight. Oakland union has assessed its members 2 per cent of their earnings to finance the fight. McDill further explained that the nine members of Oakland Typographical Union who were locked out of the Alameda "Times-Star" plant are receiving strike benefits from the International Typographical Union and from Oakland union. Opinion was expressed that it had become a matter to be considered by the Conference and action was taken to assist Oakland union by a direct donation.

The board of directors approved the continuation of organization work started last January, which has resulted in the affiliation of three new member unions and promises to make northern California a 100 per cent Conference region, with the affiliation of every typographical union in its jurisdiction.

The officers of the Conference were instructed to subscribe for the labor papers printed in all cities affiliated with the California Conference of Typographical Unions, and the secretary was instructed to furnish news and items of interest to the papers subscribed for.

Counsellor Henry P. Melnikow reported visits to the Northwest and Southern California. He conferred with the officers of Seattle and Portland Typographical Unions and International Representative Pelkey and addressed Tacoma Typographical Union. In the south Melnikow attended a meeting of the Southern California Typographical Conference, where interest was aroused in the functions and activities of the California Conference of Typographical Unions. Serious problems were discussed in connection with the situation in San Bernardino, Alhambra, in the jurisdiction of Pasadena Typographical Union, and Culver City, in the jurisdiction of Los Angeles Typographical Union.

STATE AFFLUENT BY COMPARISON

Giving thanks for California, emerging from the "worst year" in better economic condition than most of America and infinitely better than most of the world, B. H. Crocheron, director of agricultural extension at the University of California, said this week that all reports, commercial, agricultural and financial, attest that this state has weathered the storm with less distress than any other section of the country. "Fewer people are here on the poverty level," said Professor Crocheron, "than anywhere else in America. That means that our people are better off than anywhere else in the

world. America has climbed to a scale of living such as no other nation has ever enjoyed. Even the present depression in America would make European countries feel that they were affluent. And as for Asia, we are in such a golden age as Asia has never dreamed of."

A CONVENTION INCIDENT

Following an address to the recent American Federation of Labor at Vancouver, B. C., by Vice Commander Frank N. Brooks of the American Legion, who greeted the convention in the name of his organization, Frank X. Martel of Detroit, delegate of the International Typographical Union, warned against a possible disagreement between the Legion and organized labor. He said Detroit labor had urged the Legion before its recent Detroit convention to have printing for the convention done by union shops, but that the programs were printed in non-union shops and badges were made by non-union workmen, despite the fact that union shops submitted lower bids. Martel said he hoped the Legion would never again "slap organized labor in the face."

MATTHEW WOLL HERE

One of the busiest men in the ranks of organized labor was a visitor in San Francisco this week. He is Matthew Woll, third vice-president of the American Federation of Labor, first vice-president of the International Photo-Engravers' Union, president of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company, and chairman of Labor's Committee for the Modification of the Volstead Act. He was en route to Washington, D. C., his headquarters, after attending the convention of the American Federation of Labor at Vancouver, B. C.

The stay of Mr. Woll in San Francisco was brief, and while here he was entertained by the Photo-Engravers' Union. In interviews published in the daily press he is quoted as saying he felt sure the next Congress would take some action on the labor convention resolution advocating a modification of the Volstead act. He was not so sure the proposal would carry.

"The voice of the American Federation of Labor, coming after similar action by the American Bar Association, the American Medical Association and the American Legion, is a mandate that cannot be ignored," he said.

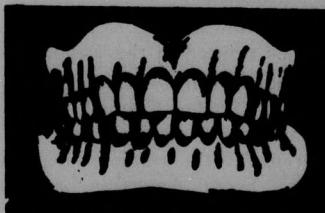
Woll said he was much impressed by the action in San Francisco last week of the Impartial Wage Board retaining the going wage in the building industry. "It was a constructive step," he said, "that and the five-day week, as also was the suggestion for a six-hour day."

VACATIONS WITH PAY

A new vacation-with-pay policy affecting 700 employees of the Western and Southern Life Insurance Company of Cincinnati has been inaugurated, according to a statement appearing in the

"Christian Science Monitor" for August 29, 1931. Under the provisions of the plan, home office employees with five to ten years' service are offered an annual three weeks' vacation and those with more than ten years of service a four weeks' vacation. A unique feature of the plan takes the form of a provision that employees have the option of taking just their customary two weeks' vacation and working for the balance of their awarded vacation period, receiving double pay for that time.

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Political Advertisement

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DISTRICT ATTORNEY

S. F. LABOR COUNCIL

Labor Council meets every Friday at 8 p. m. at Labor Temple, Sixteenth and Capp streets. Secretary's office and headquarters, Room 205, Labor Temple. The Executive and Arbitration Committee meet every Monday at 7:30 p. m. Label Section meets first and third Wednesdays at 8 p. m. Headquarters phone, MARKET 0056.

Synopsis of Minutes of October 16

Meeting called to order at 8:15 p. m. by Vice-President Dixon. President Haggerty and Secretary O'Connell excused.

Reading Minutes—Minutes of the previous meeting approved as printed in the Labor Clarion.

Communications—Filed—Minutes of the meeting of the Building Trades Council read and filed. From the Stanislaus County Central Labor Council, with reference to the unfair Modesto and Challenge butters. From American-La France and Foamate Corporation, congratulating Council on the Union Labor Party choice for Mayor. From Sylvester M. O'Sullivan, with reference to the candidacy of Mr. Uhl.

Referred to Executive Committee—From Egg Inspectors' Union, in regard to its complaint against the firm of Nye & Nissen, poultry producers.

Referred to Special Committee on Modification of the Volstead Act—From Labor's National Committee, requesting every local branch to make every effort to build a strong organization.

Resolutions—Were introduced by Delegate Hardy, requesting the Council to go on record as indorsing the \$3,500,000 bonds for school purposes, which are to be voted on November 3, 1931, and urging all local unions to acquaint their membership with the action of the Council. On motion the resolutions were indorsed.

In the discussion on the resolution it was brought out that unless the bond issue carries no new school buildings will be commenced during the coming year, also that the putting of 350 mechanics to work on school buildings for one year will assist in relieving unemployment in the building industry.

Report of Executive Committee—In the matter of application from Retail Cleaners-Dyers' Union for a boycott against the Independent Cleaning and Dyeing Works, 1731 Howard street, commit-

WE DON'T PATRONIZE LIST

The concerns named below are on the "We Don't Patronize List" of the San Francisco Labor Council. Members of Labor Unions and sympathizers are requested to cut this out and post it.

American Tobacco Company.
Austin's Shoe Stores.
Block, J., Butcher, 1351 Taraval.
Bella Roma Cigar Co.
Co-Op Manufacturing Company.
Clinton Cafeterias.
Domestic Hand Laundry, 218 Ellis.
Ernest J. Sultan Mfg. Co.
E. Goss & Co., Cigar Mfg., 113 Front.
Foster's Lunches.
Goldstone Bros., manufacturers of Dreadnaught and Bodyguard Overalls.
"Grizzly Bear," organ of N. S. G. W.
Hollywood Dry Corporation and its Products.
Koffee Kup, 5424 Geary.
Kress, S. H., Stores.
Manning's, Inc., Coffee and Sandwich Shops.
Market Street R. R.
Mann Manufacturing Company, Berkeley.
Milk Producers' Assn. of Central California.
Producers of "Modesto" and "Challenge" Butter.
National Biscuit Co., Chicago, products.
Purity Chain Stores.
Steinberg's Shoe Store, 2650 Mission.
Steinberg's Shoe Store, 1600 Fillmore.
The Mutual Stores Co.
Torino Bakery, 2823 Twenty-third.
Traung Label & Litho Co.
Union Furniture Co., 2075 Mission.
All Barber Shops open on Sunday are unfair.

tee recommends that the Council declare its intention of levying a boycott on the said firm; recommendation concurred in. In the matter of application for a boycott against the Fleet Bonded Messenger Service from the Retail Drivers' Union, the matter was held in abeyance, as no one appeared on behalf of the firm. Committee recommended that the Council donate the sum of \$10 to the fund for homeless children. Report of committee concurred in.

Reports of Unions—Street Carmen—Will dance on October 24 at Knights of Columbus Hall. Hatters—Reported an increased demand for union label on hats and caps. Tailors—Cab Tailors, 243 Turk street, are again using the union label; thanked chauffeurs for assistance; House of Oliver and McDonald & Collett are unfair; attention of delegates called to the label printed on the back page of Labor Clarion. Garment Workers—Have taken a cut in order to get some work into the shops; there has been no settlement with Amalgamated Clothing Workers—Co-op Overalls are still unfair; request members of building trades and other unions not to buy the products of the Co-op factory. Electrical Workers—Reported that the Western Union has put into effect a 10 per cent reduction under the guise of returning it later; P. G. & E. compels employees to be on duty twenty-four hours a day without overtime. Cleaners and Dyers' Union—Thanked Council for its report on Independent Cleaners and Dyers and its declaration to levy boycott.

Promotional League—A solicitor is going around soliciting orders for clothing bearing the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' label; requested delegates to report back to their unions that these clothes are not fair.

Report of Educational Committee—Recommended that one or more classes on topics relating to the study of the labor movement and economic subjects be formed. (See letter on this subject in the Labor Clarion.)

New Business—Moved that the Council indorse the stage play, "Precedent," and urge all unions to buy tickets; motion carried.

Receipts—\$379.50. **Expenses**—\$112.

HENRY HEIDELBERG, Secretary pro tem.

SPEECHMAKING ON LABOR TOPICS

To Members of Organized Labor, Greeting:

The Educational Committee of the San Francisco Labor Council, in co-operation with the Department of Workers' Education established jointly by the California State Federation of Labor and the Extension Division of the University of California, herewith offers a Course in Speechmaking on Labor Topics, to consist of ten (10) class meetings, to be held in the San Francisco Labor Temple on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 o'clock.

The purpose of this course is to offer an opportunity to increase the effectiveness in the labor movement of members of organized labor, to the end that they may become more efficient in the cause and in the promotion of labor's concerns.

Each session of the class will offer opportunity for actual practice in speaking and the proper use of English in oral expression. A special feature of this course is the plan to have each student prepare a model labor speech on some phase of the labor movement of particular interest to the student.

As soon as from twenty to twenty-five have subscribed to the course a date will be fixed for the first session of the class, of which all members will receive due notice. The fee for the course will be \$2 for each student, and the instructor will be Professor E. J. Dupuy of the Girls' High School of San Francisco.

Address all the applications to the undersigned.

Fraternally,
EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE.
By Theodore Johnson, Secretary.

FRATERNAL DELEGATES

President J. A. Franklin of the Boilermakers and Secretary-Treasurer E. E. Milliman of the Maintenance of Waymen were chosen fraternal delegates to the British Trades Union Congress by the American Federation of Labor convention at Vancouver last week.

Franklin is a veteran trades unionist. He was elected a fraternal delegate to Great Britain during the war, but was unable to carry out his mission because important duties as one of William G. McAdoo's assistants in the United States Railroad Administration required his presence in this country.

Milliman is one of the ablest and most popular of the younger railroad leaders. He has played an important part in building up the Waymen's organization until it is one of the most effective in the railroad group.

BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL

The regular weekly meeting of the San Francisco Building Trades Council held October 15 received and approved the report of the business agent, in which he stated that he had assisted in having reinstated the sheet metal workers who had been temporarily laid off by the Board of Public Works.

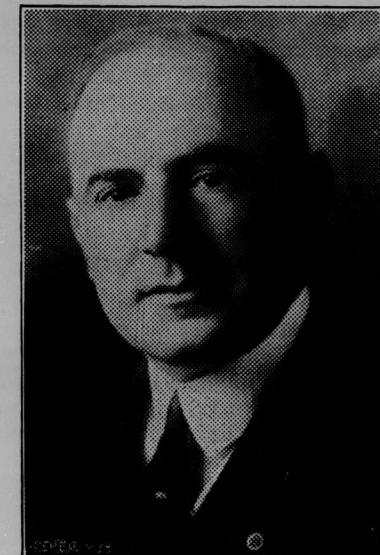
A communication from the Painters' Union was referred to the secretary; a communication from the Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor dealing with the attitude of the International Bricklayers' Union toward the federal prevailing wage bill was read; a request from Labor's National Committee for Modification of the Volstead Act that members be organized into groups in order to render assistance to the committee was complied with; the Upholsterers' Union requested assistance in having upholstery work that may be installed in theaters done under union conditions.

William H. Urmy of Electrical Workers' Union No. 6 addressed the Council and told of his success in rehabilitating the union of electricians in Los Angeles, and told of the methods used by the International Electricians in organization work.

Political Advertisement

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NEW WAGE SCHEDULE

Five local trade unions have made known in a public statement their position relative to the new "impartial wage schedule" resulting from the hearings and decision of a board convened under the auspices of the Industrial Association and affiliated organizations. The statement is signed by Joseph Mazza, secretary Bricklayers' Union No. 7; W. J. Burchell, secretary District Council of Painters; William Butler, secretary Plumbers' Union No. 442; Andrew Taylor, president Plasterers' Union No. 66; D. H. Ryan, secretary District Council of Carpenters. It is as follows:

"We, the undersigned representatives of basic crafts in the building trades, wish to express our appreciation of the fair and impartial manner in which the wage board conducted its hearings.

"The decision of the board to make no changes in the wage scales at the present time and to recommend shorter hours to relieve unemployment will, in our opinion, meet with general approval.

"In view of the fact that labor's participation in the formation of the board was the cause of sharp criticism on the part of some labor officials, we believe it is timely to state that five basic crafts, representing approximately 85 per cent of the skilled building trades mechanics, were authorized by their labor organizations to assist in the formation of the board, to submit their case to it and to abide by its decision.

"We believe that the board has performed a distinct public service and that our participation will be approved by practically every building trades mechanic concerned.

"In conclusion, may we say that it is our desire to co-operate with all groups in the building industry in carrying out the decision of the board to the end that the wage scales and the working conditions will be made effective."

"Impartial Wage Board" Findings

Following are the findings of the board for San Francisco and Alameda counties building industry, effective January 1, 1932:

1. Present wage scale to remain in effect during 1932.
2. Official working week of five days.
3. Working day to remain at eight hours.
4. Overtime to be paid at the rate of time and one-half.
5. Work on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays to be paid at double rate.
6. Actual emergency and repair work to be registered and may be performed outside regular working hours in eight-hour shifts.
7. Employment of improvers or helpers, except by official designation, constitutes violation of the award.
8. Ratios of journeymen and apprentices to be worked out co-operatively by employers, union representatives and the Industrial Association.

The board recommended steps be taken for adoption of an official six-hour day and urged an orderly effort be made to reduce building costs in the interests of the community which, it was found, is "penalized by unnecessarily high rents."

The board decrees that the specified scale for each craft is to be considered a minimum, and employees of superior skill and knowledge may be paid in excess of the amounts set forth.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

The Joint Legislative Committee on Unemployment, meeting in the State building in San Francisco last week, heard a report from Senator J. M. Inman of Sacramento to the effect that more than 500,000 persons are now out of jobs in this state, and of these at least 350,000 are absolutely dependent on some kind of relief. Approximately 60 per cent of unemployment is in the city of Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay region, with ranks of the jobless steadily growing, he said.

At least \$30,000,000 state aid will be needed for unemployment relief in California this coming winter, the senator reported.

A bond issue to provide the needed funds was opposed by Senator R. E. Swing of San Bernardino.

"The only solution is for the state to meet it,"

Senator Swing asserted, "and I think taxation is the only feasible method."

Dr. Louis Bloch, statistician, reported on the increase of unemployment.

Senator H. C. Nelson reported a sales tax on luxuries would yield approximately \$11,000,000 a year according to an estimate submitted by the State Finance Department. In discussing possible sales tax revenues the committee submitted for consideration the following schedule with estimate returns: Two-cent tax a package on cigarettes, \$5,000,000; 5 per cent on cigars, \$2,500,000; 5 per cent on theater ticket sales, \$3,000,000; 5 per cent on cosmetics, \$375,000. A license fee of \$5 on tobacco dealers would yield another \$90,000, the committee estimated.

A resolution introduced by Assemblyman Roy Bishop of Alameda demanding that Governor Rolph call a special session of the Legislature failed.

After an all-day discussion the joint committee voted a four weeks' adjournment to further study the situation and adopted a resolution calling upon Governor Rolph's commission on unemployment for future specific data.

DEATHS IN UNION RANKS

Since last week the deaths of the following members of local unions have been reported: William Cowley, Seamen's Union of the Pacific; Elias D. Griffiths, Cooks' Union No. 44; Daniel Boland, Municipal Carmen's Union No. 518; Thomas F. O'Rourke, Typographical Union No. 21.

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LEO A. MURASKY
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Vote This Ticket Straight, Tuesday, November 3

CONVENTION VISITOR

E. W. A. O'Dell, general secretary-treasurer of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, with headquarters in Boston, was a visitor in the city this week, on his way home from the convention of the American Federation of Labor in Vancouver, B. C.

Some years ago Mr. O'Dell was stationed with headquarters in this city as an organizer for his union, and has a wide acquaintance among local trade unionists. He has been engaged in renewing these acquaintanceships and visiting the scenes of his former labors.

In 1920 Mr. O'Dell was fraternal delegate to the British Trade Union Congress from the American Federation of Labor, and had an opportunity to meet the leaders of British labor who later became famous as heads of the first Labor government of Great Britain. He speaks entertainingly of his experience, but is not favorably impressed with the policies of the British trade unions as compared with those of American labor. He said he believed the action of the recent American Federation of Labor Convention in rejecting the unemployment insurance proposal was in the interest of trade-unionism. The experience of Germany and Britain with the plan did not appeal to him as a recommendation for its adoption in this country.

AGAINST WAGE CUTS

Among the prominent visitors to San Francisco this week was Patrick Jay Hurley, Secretary of War, who has just returned from an observation tour of the Philippines. Speaking at a luncheon tendered him by the Chamber of Commerce, he said that sustaining wages is one of the essential elements necessary to restore normal business conditions.

The Secretary remarked that he had read much

of a proposed deflation of labor. "This," he continued, "will not cure the depression. Reduction of wages will diminish the purchasing power of wage earners and prolong rather than overcome prevailing conditions."

"Everyone agrees that the most needed improvement in the economic condition of the United States is a more equitable distribution of the nation's wealth. Every intelligent leader of industry should direct his mind to a solution of this problem."

SETS BAD EXAMPLE

While a crowd in the council chamber cried out in protest, the Oakland City Council last week passed its new wage-slashing ordinance by an 8 to 1 vote and it went into effect immediately.

Designed, its advocates say, to save the city \$200,000 a year in salaries, spokesmen for various unions bitterly assailed the ordinance as "a saving at the expense of the workingman."

The wage slash affects every city employee except the \$20,000-a-year City Manager, department heads and police and firemen.

Spokesmen for eleven trade organizations, representing about twelve thousand workers, flayed the new ordinance. Among the organizations represented were the Building Trades Council, the painters, plumbers, engineers, carpenters, machinists, electrical and sheet metal workers' unions and the Brotherhood of Teamsters.

W. A. Spooner, representing the American Federation of Labor and the Central Labor Council, denounced the ordinance as a work of "political revenge" by the new office holders on employees who had been affiliated with the old form of city government.

NOT THAT KIND OF RAZOR

The barbers of Guayaquil, which is in Ecuador, have asked their government to forbid the import-

tation of American safety razors, which they say are ruining the barber business. Another bad feature of safety razors, from the South American point of view, is that they are virtually useless in a revolution.—Spokane "Spokesman-Review."

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